

Voice of Forsyth

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March: Frances Casstevens

April: Judy S. Cardwell

May: Clark Stevens

June: Fam Brownlee

July, August, September:

To Be Announced

October: Michael Hartley

Forsyth County Historical Association
Winston-Salem, NC
www.forsythnchistory.com

WELCOME TO FCHA Phyllis Roberson Hoots, President

The genesis of the Forsyth County Historical Association began with the desire of a group of individuals to restore to the county a large part of its missing history. Forsyth County's rich Moravian history and contributions are well-known. Much less defined is the county's non-Moravian history, beginning in the eighteenth century. It, too, is just as rich and colorful, and the people who were participants in this history were integral in making Forsyth County prosperous. Joseph Winston and Benjamin Forsyth, for whom the county and town were named, were prominent in local and national events of the eighteenth century. Both were non-Moravians and were from the Townfork Settlement (located in present-day northern Forsyth County).

The FCHA's mission is to restore that history and to serve as a vital resource for its presentation through researching, preserving, interpreting, and portraying our history in the context of its interaction with the upper Piedmont region. Our plan is to implement various historical categories, including economic, political, social and religious. The website also has links to other historical societies in the county, each diligently working on specific areas. But 250 years of our history to be uncovered requires the commitment of many like-minded people. The aim of the FCHA is to spark enthusiasm and offer a challenge to others to join us in our endeavors and volunteer to make our organization successful in preserving and presenting our county's history. Included in this newsletter is a membership application, which you may return by email or postal mail. Assist us on our fascinating journey into Forsyth County's past and preserve it for the future!

Editor's NotesBy Cindy H. Casey

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as both the FCHA editor and webmaster for 2009. I hope to provide you with many interesting articles.

The constraints of space in a newsletter barely allows for as much information on a topic as one would like. So to provide our members with more information on a featured article, a more in-depth version will be placed on the FCHA web-site. These longer articles will be accessible to our **FCHA members only.**

Receiving your newsletter by email allows you to archive each issue on your personal computer. This convenience provides access to your newsletter anytime you want. (And it will save the FCHA the price of postage!)

The E-Newsletter will be emailed not only to FCHA members, but to libraries and non-members as well. For those who do not wish their newsletters to be emailed, one will be postal mailed upon request.

Please feel free to share your newsletter with your friends

and family. Email one to your local library, church or community newspaper. Or print one off your computer and mail it!

If you have suggestions or topics of special interest you would like to see included in the next issue, please email to:

forsythhistory@yahoo.com

Researching DeedsBy Judy S. Cardwell

I was told 18 years ago, that I could learn more about my family, if I would pull all the deeds of the surname that I was researching. Well, for me, it paid off in a wonderful way and I discovered much about my family that helped me with how they fit into the family, who they belonged to and how much land that they owned. So, now when I have a problem in my research, I always turn to the deeds to help solve my problem.

In Forsyth County, NC, the deeds are all on file at the Register of Deeds Office in downtown Winston at 201 N. Chestnut Street on the 2nd floor. The first thing that you will need to do is look in the deed indexes. Deeds are indexed by the date of the deed. There are 2 index books that you will need to check. The Grantor deed index book is the seller of the land. The Grantee deed index book is the buyer of the land. Check both of these index books to find the name that you are looking in deeds for your surname.

The deed indexes at the Register of Deeds in downtown Winston are all on the computer and very easy to search. Most of the deeds are also on the computer. The very early Forsyth County deeds are not yet scanned for the computer, but they are on microfilm and can also be copied at the Register of Deeds office. Once you are able to locate the deeds of your surname, go through the deeds and see what kind of deeds that you were able to find. The most common deeds are deeds for land, but there are also bills of sale, deeds of gift, deeds of mortgage and deeds of trust.

See Judy's extended article on deeds at the Members Deed Page: <http://www.forsythnchistory.com/members/memdeedvest.html>

CEMETERY CARE...Phyllis Roberson Hoots



SALEM CEMETERY
Winston-Salem, NC

The subject of cemeteries makes many people feel uncomfortable. When trying to share my passion about cemeteries, I've had people respond by laughing weakly and saying that they will be going there too soon as it is. They surely do not wish to think about them until they have to. But cemeteries are part of life. Not only are they repositories for our dead bodies, they reflect, through time, who and what we were in life, as individuals and, collectively, as a nation.

For genealogists, cemeteries are vital resources in discovering more about their ancestors. For scholars, cemeteries provide a valuable insight into a culture. They are able to "read" a cemetery, from where it is located and how it is arranged to the

types of vegetation which grow there. They obtain much information through determining the types of material from which the gravestones are made and by studying the markers' iconography, epithets, and stonemason, if indicated. I have researched cemeteries for many years and have attended several workshops conducted by the North Carolina Cultural Resources Department. Also, I have assisted the North Carolina Archaeology Department in surveying cemeteries in the pathway of road projects. Along the way, I also realized it was imperative that I know something about cemetery laws.

Therefore, for those people who wish to learn all they can about

cemeteries, I am sharing my research on our FCHA website. The first article, which will be in place in February, will focus on *Cemeteries: Outdoor Museums*, which will describe their role in American society from the 1600s until today and the significance of the changes of cemeteries over time.

In coming months, I will have articles on how to find cemeteries and survey them; how to clean gravestones (or whether to leave them alone); and how to interpret the laws covering cemeteries. I hope that these articles will be of much help and interest to researchers.

DID YOU KNOW?? By Kathleen Clayton

Did you know that Winston-Salem housed World War II prisoners of war in the mid-1940's? It was one of sixteen small branches across North Carolina. In October of 1944, 210 POW's, mainly young enlisted men, were transferred from Camp Butner, one of two large POW camps in NC, to a new compound in Winston-Salem. This was done at the request of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company to alleviate the labor shortage in tobacco processing plants. Soon more arrived. By October of 1945 there were over 600 POW's.

The commanding officer was Lt. A.A. Wilson. The main site of the compound was the National Guard Armory located at Patterson Ave. and Ninth St. This site was bulldozed in 1973. The most significant expansion in the number of prisoners occurred in August of 1945, when 375 German officers transferred from Camp Como in Mississippi. These men were from Field Marshall Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps. [Sic] Shed Number 112, a metal sheathed storage building at the corner of Reynolds Blvd. and Indiana Ave. was converted into barracks. The area was surrounded by barbed wire. Over the years, these men worked in various capacities, mostly in private contracts doing agricultural work. Prisoners helped make cigarettes in the No. 1 and 2 leaf houses, worked on local farm and timber fields, and performed maintenance on the compounds in Winston-Salem and Greensboro. The Winston-Salem compound was manned by two American officers and 50 American enlisted men, and was visited periodically by Swiss diplomats or the International Red Cross to ensure compliance with the Geneva Convention. Occasionally, concerns were registered about poor conditions. One prisoner escaped but was promptly recaptured.

Many locals remember seeing these prisoners in their navy blue twill uniforms with large white "P" and "W" letters on their chest, working in local factories and fields. Some local farm girls would spend time sitting in the barn loft watching "those good looking German boys" work the fields.

A news article in the Winston-Salem Journal during the time indicated that there had been some complaints that the prisoners were being coddled and afforded certain luxuries that civilians could not secure. Lt. A.A. Wilson told the reporter that prisoners receive "no cigarettes, no beer, no soft drinks and a maximum of four ounces of meat per day". The meat consisted of low-point valued meats like kidneys, liver, or pig knuckles.

Other news articles and interviews with former POW's who have come back to visit Winston-Salem indicate that some of these "enemies" eventually became friends.

If you are interested in reading more about POW camps in NC see the book "Nazi POW's in the Tarheel State" by Dr. Robert D. Billinger, Jr., located in the Forsyth County Library system, NC 940.547B.

THIS and THAT.....

The FCHA Board needs to fill the three positions of the Publicity Committee. The duties of this Committee are to publicize the activities and objectives of the FCHA. If you are a member and interested in serving with the Board, please contact the FCHA at

forsythhistory@yahoo.com

Volunteers Are Welcome!

Have you checked out our website's most popular link???

<http://www.forsythnchistory.com/udcmain.html>

The James B. Gordon Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy has been located in Winston-Salem since 1898. The website features obituaries, news articles, and photographs of not only the members, but also of many of the soldiers who fought from Forsyth and surrounding counties.

This Chapter still has an active membership. You'll find a lot of information on this site!

Is your family planning a family reunion in 2009?

Be sure and let us know! A special REUNION site is coming soon and we want to include yours!

Forsyth County, NC Newspapers.. <http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/>

www.forsythnchistory.com/members/memnewsforsco.html *for online list at FCHA*

Check the FCHA for a listing of the microfilmed copies of Forsyth County Newspapers currently available through interlibrary loan from the NC State Library System. There are many already in the NC Room which can be accessed.

Over 2,000 newspapers have been published in North Carolina since the *North Carolina Gazette* first appeared in New Bern in 1751. From January 1991 through March 1999, the North Carolina Division of Archives and History and the State Library of North Carolina coordinated the North Carolina Newspaper Project (NCNP), an extensive program to locate, catalog, and microfilm

existing North Carolina newspapers. Selected titles from each county have been microfilmed by the State Archives. Many newspaper titles on microfilm are available through interlibrary loan (ILL), a cooperative program for lending materials among libraries. The State Library of North Carolina lends its microfilm through ILL, but **all ILL requests must come through a library**. Microfilm and other library materials are

never mailed to the patron's home. They also often supplement public records and provide information that is not recorded anywhere else. You can learn more about your ancestor's lives by placing them in the context of their daily lives. Contact your local library. The interlibrary loan librarian or reference librarian can order the newspaper microfilm of your choice.

OBITUARIES ARE NOT A DEAD END!

The FCHA has a large Obituary Database which can be accessed through the Members Site. New names are added daily. If you have old obituaries that you would like to donate to this database, please let us know! We'll be happy to include them!!

Obituaries, for the most part, aren't about someone's death so much as about his or her life and family. Experienced researchers can usually "read between the lines" of a well written epitaph. While each tidbit of information could possibly be a much needed clue, experience accepts this biography as secondhand

information and views each detail with a little caution.

Every family historian should diligently search for obituaries of their ancestors' death. Don't ignore the names of the relatives listed. Research them as well. Many times you'll find members of the family still living. Contacting them will

give you a unique opportunity to interview a person with first hand knowledge of the life of the deceased, and to meet new relatives as well.

You can research out-of-state obituaries through many websites, or you can order a microfilmed out-of-state paper through interlibrary loan.

FCHA WEBSITE CHOICES

Have you ever heard of the research website Footnote? Their non-exclusive agreement with the National Archives enables researchers to access millions of photos and records from the National Archives.

Some historic documents you can access include: **Papers of the Continental Congress (1774-89); Mathew B. Brady Collection of Civil War Photographs; Name Index to Civil War and Later Pension Files; Investigative Case Files of the Bureau of Investigation, 1908-22; Confederate Amnesty Papers; Constitutional Convention Records; Custer's Court Martial; Dawes Packets; FBI Cases; Indian Census Rolls 1885-1940; Lincoln Assassination Papers**, just to name a few.

Footnote is a paid members site, but there are some records you can access for free. It's definitely worth the membership price!

<http://www.footnote.com/>



Schedule of Speakers... www.forsythnchistory.com/meetings.html

FRANCES CASSTEVENS

March 10, 2009

Frances Casstevens' passion for writing began in 1968 when she compiled a genealogy of the Lineberry family. In 1976, she collaborated with a distant relative to write a genealogy on the Casstevens family.

Mrs. Casstevens served as the editor and contributor to *The Heritage of Yadkin County, North Carolina*, published in 1981. In 1996, she compiled a picture history of her county entitled, *Yadkin County: The First One Hundred Years*.

In 1997 Casstevens wrote a book about the effect the Civil War had on Yadkin County. It included a

roster of about 1,200 men who had served the Confederacy in some capacity. *The Civil War and Yadkin County, North Carolina* was published by McFarland & Co., Inc.

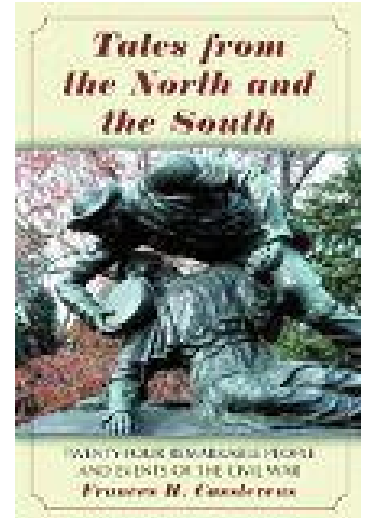
After Casstevens retired from Bowman Gray School of Medicine, she began writing full time. She has published several non-fiction books on the Civil War era.

In 2005 Casstevens published a book of ghost stories, entitled *Ghosts and Their Haunts: The Legends and Lore of the Yadkin River Valley*, published by Parkway Publishers.

Her 2006 publication, *Death in*

North Carolina's Piedmont: Tales of Murder, Suicide and Causes Unknown, contains several tragedies that occurred in Forsyth County, such as the murder of Poor Ellen Smith and the hanging of her killer, Peter Degraff. It features an account of the tragedy that took place at Reynolda House and the death of young Zachary Smith Reynolds.

Her latest book *Ghosts of the North Carolina Piedmont: Haunted Houses and Unexplained Events* will be available from The History Press early in 2009.



Tales from the North and South
By Frances Casstevens

TOWNFORK SETTLEMENT Judy S. Cardwell

JUDY S. CARDWELL

April 14, 2009

History of the Townfork Settlement

Learn about the early settlers who first settled in the Townfork Settlement prior to the Moravians traveling down the Great Wagon Road to the Wachovia Tract in 1753. [*The Great Wagon Road ran through the Townfork Settlement*]

Townfork Settlement is located just north of the Wachovia Tract along the Townfork Creek which begins in Upper Stokes Co., and runs down into Forsyth Co., then back into Stokes, emptying into the Dan River.

Judy Cardwell and Phyllis Roberson Hoots combined their fields of expertise in this project. Dedicating her efforts in identifying these settlers and their descendants, Ms. Cardwell has collected deeds, wills, marriage bonds, and birth and death records of these early pioneers. It is a fascinating tale of how families traveled from different areas of the country, ultimately creating a strong, productive community of historical significance.

Cardwell has been doing genealogy and historical research for over 18 years. Her

particular field of expertise is plotting deeds from the 18th and 19th centuries. To her credit, she has reconstructed over 700 deeds.

Judy is one of the founding members of the FCHA. Her extracurricular activities include presiding as the President of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, James B. Gordon Chapter of Forsyth County. She has served as the President of the Surry County Genealogical Association and as past Regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She also volunteers her time to the Colonial Dames of the 17th Century and the Redbank School Preservation Group.

Be sure to join us on April 14, 2009 at 7 pm to hear Ms. Cardwell's presentation on the History of Townfork Settlement.

<http://home.alltel.net/judyscard/index.htm>

FCHA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Forsyth County
Historical Association

WEBSITE

www.forsythnchistory.com

EMAIL:

forsythhistory@yahoo.com

Meetings are held March through
October the second Tuesday of
the month at 7 pm.

Reynolda Manor Branch Library
2839 Fairlawn Drive
Winston-Salem, NC 27106
(336)703-2960

Should there be a location change of
our meeting, please check our
website at
www.forsythnchistory.com/meetings.html

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.forsythnchistory.com/

Name : _____ (new____ renewal____)

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone:() _____

Email: _____ (please print)

Password for FCHA Members Site _____
(less than 10 lower case letters- please print)

Dues: \$25.00 for 12 months (Jan-Dec)

Lifetime Membership: \$125.00

Please make check payable to: **Forsyth County Historical Association**
6025 Crestridge Road, Winston-Salem, NC. 27106

I agree not to share my FCHA User ID or Password with other members or non-members

Signature Required: _____

About Becoming a Member

If you are interested in your heritage as well as the history of Forsyth County, the FCHA is the organization you should join! Our speakers will educate you in their various fields of expertise. The MEMBERS ONLY SITE will provide you with research information not accessible to our general readers.

Our organization has great plans! Become a member and experience how interesting history and heritage can be!

FCHA

6025 Crestridge Rd
Winston-Salem, NC 27106

